The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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"INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT" IS DEMOCRACY'S CEASELESS FOE

Oil deals involving public officials make the terms "invisible government" and "the money power" grim realities.

The term "money power" is as old as the nation. It existed when the Revolutionary war debt was refunded by the federal government after "insiders" bought the claims of various states at a low figure. It was active in the civil war. It was responsible for "Black Friday" of '73, and it drove Liberty bonds to two-thirds their value.

Reaction would ridicule these terms, but this is no answer to facts.

The favorite defense of "invisible government" is to assume a scoffing pose; to jeer at those who keep before the public happenings that privilege would forget.

"How ridiculous!" "How amusing!" exclaim these confusers of the public mind, who even now snarl at the probers of Teapot Dome.

"Invisible government" is as active today as it was in other periods of our country's history.

It was at its height following the Civil war, when Credit Mobilier and star route exposures, land rings and other thievery shook the nation.

Then, as now, the trail of corruption led to the president's cabinet.

"Invisible government" is a menace to democracy. It thrives just in proportion as citizens neglect their duties.

When the people sleep, they are robbed.

Physical things—natural resources—are taken from them. But, worse, they lose their ideals.

When man is given power, it is inherent that he strives to increase that power.

It makes no difference whether it be a Gary in industry, a royal autocrat, or a Russian soviet, the eternal law prevails that men or groups will extend their power if unchecked.

Trade unionists are aware of this characteristic in man, and their movement is shaped to protect itself.

The union system makes autocracy impossible. The unions encourage attendance at meetings, favor direct legislation, urge members to read their official journals and the labor press and acquire a knowledge of trade union philosophy and methods.

Trade unionists would consider it an insult to their intelligence if they were asked to vote for men in their unions on the same ground that the hard-boiled secret agent of privilege appeals for popular suffrage.

If "invisible government" is to end, the people must make several changes in their national life.

They must be interested in government every day, rather than a few days; they must look upon politics as the science of government; they must know the danger of delegating too much power to others; they must consider it criminal for anyone to even suggest the disposal of natural resources.

The road democracy travels is rough. As years are measured, this government system is yet in its infancy.

Scandals will continue to disgrace and discourage believers in democracy as long as they vote for press-agented "statesmen" and permit private control of public credit and private exploitation of natural resources.

Vigilance—eternal and intelligent—is the price liberty exacts.

"HIGH POINTS" IN TEAPOT DOME; GREED PILFERS PUBLIC DOMAIN

Out of the bewildering tangle of Teapot Dome, the following may be considered the "high points":

For years private interests have attempted to gain control of oil lands that conserve set aside for navy uses. The navy department was placed in control of these lands.

Efforts were made, without success, to have Presidents Taft, Roosevelt and Wilson ignore this mandate of congress.

Albert B. Fall resigned his office as United States senator from New Mexico and accepted the position of secretary of the interior in President Harding's cabinet, March 5, 1921.

Secretary of the Navy Denby, who was the legal custodian of the oil lands, joined with Fall in recommending to the president that control of the oil lands be given to the interior department. This was done. The change was obtained, it is claimed, to get rid of the strenuous objections of navy officers.

Fall and the navy secretary then leased the oil lands to private exploiters. Fall resigned from the cabinet.

The senate authorized Mr. La Follette's resolution calling for an investigation. A "hot trail" was not struck by the probers until stories of Fall's sudden prosperity in New Mexico reached Washington.

Fall was called to testify, but he refused to answer questions. He said it might incriminate him.

On January 31 the senate unanimously called for the annulment of the oil leases on the ground that they "were executed under circumstances indicating fraud and corruption."

On February 11 the senate, by a vote of 47 to 34, asked the president to request Secretary Denby's resignation. The president replied that the senate has no legal right to take such action, as it has he will await the report of special counsel he appointed to investigate the entire subject.

The anti-Denbyites claim that the senate must approve cabinet appointments, and therefore the senate has a voice in the fitness of cabinet officials.

Defenders of Secretary Denby say he may have committed an error of judgment, but that is not a crime. They rely on the act of 1920 which states that the secretary of the navy shall "conserve, develop, use and operate" the oil reserves.

The Denby defenders would have the entire matter shifted to the courts. Opponents of this plan say public interest would be lost in dry legal proceedings.

Around the above points revolve a sordid tale of corruption in high places and debauchery of public office by big business.

People Awake To Tax Burdens; Financiers Are Privileged Class

Washington, Feb. 16.—The Mellon tax bill is confronted by jagged rocks and hidden reefs. It is stated that Congressman Longworth, house floor leader of the administration party, has notified the president the bill can not pass in its present shape, and that it must be modified to meet popular opposition.

The propaganda in favor of this legislation has "flivvered." The theory that rich citizens will graciously invest their money in industry if they pay less taxes has fewer supporters than formerly.

The plan has been bombarded in the senate, where Mr. Couzens of Michigan and Mr. Shipstead of Minnesota are bringing out facts relative to the United States treasury that are rarely mentioned in the public press.

Senator Shipstead has shown that Secretary Mellon has the sole power—and is exercising it—to raise interest rates for banks. When the secretary is pleading that the issuance of tax-exempt bonds by states and municipalities be stopped, he is issuing federal tax-exempt bonds that banks buy.

Senator Couzens has renewed his letter-writing attacks on the secretary, who is asked: "Is there any reason why corporations should not pay the same income tax on their receipts from interest on bank balances, dividends and interest on bonds, as individuals do?"

The Michigan lawmaker charges the secretary with favoring banks to the detriment of the individual taxpayer, and reminds the cabinet official that the greatest loophole for avoidance and taxes is the formation of holding companies.

Will you agree to the proposal to tax all dividends and interest that these holding companies receive on the same basis as you tax individuals?" asks Senator Couzens.

"You are directing no efforts to get at the corporations, but rather are playing directly into their hands. It is estimated that you have paid banks over $100,000,000 in relative to interest rates, and you did this even though the banks pay no income or corporation taxes on government securities.

"Your own bank, the Mellon National at Pittsburgh, holds nearly $40,000,000 of bonds which pay no taxes whatsoever. You know that individuals holding these securities would have to pay income taxes. Why do you not recommend a remedy for this discrimination?"

This publicity is having its effect on the popular mind, and the people as never before are understanding that the term "money power" is not merely a figure of speech.

"EQUAL RIGHTS" PLAN IS OPPOSED BY WOMEN

Washington, Feb. 16.—Women trade unionists, representatives of fraternal and social organizations, and representatives of the two leading political parties thronged the senate judiciary committee room in opposition to the "equal rights" amendment to the federal constitution. The amendment is advocated by the national women's party.

Opponents included women who were in the forefront of the fight for women's suffrage. One speaker told committee that none were more alert than they to the necessity for securing for women equality as citizens and as members of society, but that the proposed amendment would make matters worse. They advocated specific laws to deal with specific discriminations, instead of the proposed blanket legislation, which is ambiguous in its terms and will cause endless litigation to determine the meaning of "equal rights." Meantime, the women point out, valuable laws now on the statute books would not be enforced.

The trade union women were especially emphatic in pointing out the amendment's destructiveness of industrial standards. They said that it would jeopardize existing labor laws in the 48 states where trade unions and women's organizations have worked for years to secure 8-hour or 9-hour laws, minimum wage laws and other women's legislation. Mothers' pension laws, in 40 states, it was pointed out, would probably be invalidated, and other laws would also be enforced because of the general confusion.

Senators were reminded that the amendment is not necessary, as congress and the states have the power to do what the amendment purports to do. The way is already open and women have the ballot with which to secure the very kind of laws the amendment would require congress and the states to enact.

TAX EXEMPT BONDS WILL BE CONTINUED

Washington, Feb. 16.—By a vote of 247 to 133 the house rejected a proposed constitutional amendment that would prohibit states, counties, municipalities and districts from issuing tax-exempt securities.

Secretary of the Treasury Mellon favored the plan. It was savagely attacked by Congressman Pou of North Carolina, who opposed the elimination of money now put in tax-exempt bonds is lost to industry, and that this causes unemployment. The Pou resolution has no chance that money secured through the sale of these bonds is placed in circulation by building school houses, roads, water works, sewers and other social enterprises.

Other opponents showed that the amendment would place the credit of minor units of government under control of the federal government. This was pictured as a "monstrous proposition," because it meant more centralization of government.

"A bankers' proposition," was another charge that opponents used most effectively. At the present time there are approximately $12,000,000,000 of these tax-exempt bonds in existence. If the issuance of this character of bonds were prohibited, the value of the tax-exempts now outstanding would be increased, thus benefiting millions of additional revenue to bankers.

Congressman Burton of Ohio, who led the fight for the amendment, acknowledged that "possibly there will be a slight increase in the rate of interest."

INDUSTRY'S VICTIMS ARE PAID MILLIONS

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 16.—More than $83,000,000 has been paid to the victims of industrial accidents in this state the past eight years, according to Gabriel Moyer, manager of the state insurance fund.

During the period there have been 20,462 fatal accidents, more than 100,000 serious accidents and more than 1,500,000 accidents of lesser degree of severity. In 1923 there were more than 3,000 fatal accidents and more than 11,000 serious accidents.

More than one-half of the total money paid has been to widows and orphans, Mr. Moyer said.

EMPLOYMENT LOWERS

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 16.—Employment in New York state factories dropped nearly one per cent in January, according to the state department of labor. A decline is usual at this time, it is stated, because of the let-up in holiday industries and because of inventories.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Chattanooga, Tenn., Feb. 16.—Officers of the Tennessee state federation of labor have issued a call for the annual convention, which will be held in this city, beginning Monday, May 5.

HORSESHOERS ORGANIZE

Chicago, Feb. 16.—Horseshoers in this city have reorganized their local.

MANAGERS WANT DELAY DURING BIG CONVENTION

New York, Feb. 16.—The Actors' equity association has refused the managers' request to postpone negotiations for a new agreement during June because of the Democratic national convention in this city.

"The managers want a postponement so they can clean up a barrel of money; then they will let us shift for ourselves," said an Equity official.

The actors decline to work with non-members of Equity. The managers object to this position, and issue solemn declarations to the press about the "decline of art." The actors and actresses laugh at the prophecies of money-grubbing managers who fear Equity will compel them to concede better conditions.

FOOD PRICES GO UP

Washington, Feb. 16.—During the year period, January 15, 1923, to January 15, 1924, food prices increased in the following cities, according to the bureau of labor statistics: Springfield, Ill., 8 per cent; Atlanta, 7 per cent; Cincinnati, Columbus, Milwaukee and Omaha, 6 per cent; Denver and Louisville, 5 per cent; Indianapolis and Jacksonville, 4 per cent; Bridgeport, Detroit and Manchester, 3 per cent; Boston, Charleston, New Haven, New Orleans, Norfolk and Washington, D. C., 2 per cent; Fall River, Providence and Scranton, 1 per cent; Richmond and Rochester, less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

METAL WORKERS ADVANCE

Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 16.—Sheet metal workers have secured substantial wage increases. The old rate of 87½ cents an hour is advanced to $1.06 until August 1, when the rate will be increased 7½ cents an hour. This will bring the scale to $1.13½ an hour, or $9 a day.

"LEFTS" DEMORALIZE, THEN SEIZE CONTROL

New York, Feb. 16.—Making a noise out of all proportion to their numbers, communists active in the fur workers attempted their disruptive tactics during the successful wage agreement of these workers.

The union made notable gains, including a 12½ per cent increase, despite the "lefts." As soon as interest a communist sheet that is supported by Russian money. Charges of all kinds were hurled at officers of the union, and every effort was made to confuse the membership and weaken its morale.

Their purpose was to demoralize the union, turn it into a mob, and seize control.

"The 'lefts' are incapable of constructive work," said General President Kaufman of the International Fur Workers' union, who exposed the communists' methods. "Neither is constructive work in accord with the aims of the so-called trade union educational league. This league, under whose colors the 'lefts' parade, is a general fiasco, discredited among the workers.

"Since the 'lefts' lost their rule over our union in 1922, the union has since attained power and influence. They know that owing to their bungling incompetence in 1921 and partly in 1922 the membership will never again entrust the leadership of the union into their hands. Only a state of demoralization offers them opportunity to seize the reins of power.

"Naturally they choose a moment of awakened interest, when terms of a new agreement are under discussion between employers to stir up strife and cause confusion in the ranks. They circulate the wildest stories, call protest meetings against the union, break into assembly rooms where they have no right to be present, and attempt to break up union meetings, terrorize and provoke fights—all with the idea of discrediting the union and destroying its power of protecting the workers' interests."

BACK PAY SUIT LOST BY RAILWAY SHOPMEN

Philadelphia, Feb. 16.—Federal Judge Dickinson has dismissed the $15,000,000 back-pay suit that system federation No. 90 (shop crafts) started against the Pennsylvania railroad.

The claim was for the difference between wages set by the railroad labor board, and wages set by the railroad's company union. Judge Dickinson ruled that federal courts have no power to enforce decisions of the railroad labor board, but the federation system will appeal the decision.

One result of the trial is that if value to the organization of the employment by a Pennsylvania railroad official that the expenses of company "union" representatives be paid by the railroad when they are negotiating wage rates.

Robert C. Massey, general manager of the eastern region of the Pennsylvania railroad, made this acknowledgment under examination by the shop men's attorney.

This is proof that the company "union" is a good thing for the railroad as the management has saved $15,000,000, less the few hundred dollars it expends on company "union" representatives while they are housed in fine hotels and smoke good cigars during a wage conference.

PRIVATE COMPENSATION URGED BY BUSINESS MEN

Washington, Feb. 16.—Business interests in this city and throughout the nation are urging congressmen to oppose the Fitzgerald compensation bill, which prohibits private concerns from writing compensation to injured workers in the District of Columbia.

Business men favor the Underhill bill, which permits private concerns writing this insurance. Opponents of the latter declare that congress has no right to injure a private business—the business of living off the injuries and misery of helpless workers.

8,000 TEAMSTERS STRIKE

Chicago, Feb. 16.—Eight thousand members of Teamsters' union No. 731 suspended work to enforce a wage increase of 81 cents a day and reduce the work day from nine hours to eight hours.

BILL FOSTERS STAND FIRM

San Francisco Feb. 16.—Organized bill posters and billers are standing firm in their Pacific coast strike against the Foster & Kleiser firm. The Burns detective agency is associated with the anti-union firm.

GET 44-HOUR WEEK

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 16.—The Electrotypers' union has concluded negotiations with employers and has secured wage increases and the 44-hour week.

"BIG BIZ" FINANCES FLAG-WAVING BUNCH WHO FIGHT UNIONISM

Wheeling, W. Va., Feb. 16.—The American constitutional convention, that operates in this state as an alleged patriotic organization, is merely a union-smashing outfit. It is financed by big business, which understand its purpose. Its professed love of the constitution is to fool the unthinking.

This was brought out in the suit of John W. Kirk against the association for commissions. Kirk collected $5,000 from Judge Gary, and was compelled to sue for his 25 per cent "split." The court allowed this defender of the constitution judgment for $1,250, his full claim.

Kirk stated on the stand that after expenses were paid, and commissions were deducted, the balance was used to promote the anti-union shop.

The Wheeling steel corporation of this city contributed $2,800 to these defenders of the constitution. The steel corporation is now attempting to destroy the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

ALASKA SALMON TRUST WOULD CONTROL SUPPLY

Washington, Feb. 16.—A battle against the monopolization of Alaska salmon has been quietly waged in a committee room of the house. The cannery corporations are arrayed against Delegate Sutherland, representing the territory of Alaska, and officers of the Seamen's union.

The fight is over a bill that would legalize a decision by Secretary of Commerce Hoover, who set aside fish reserves in the Alaskan waters. The bill would provide how many fish could be caught, by what method, and, most important of all, who could catch the fish. Defenders of the decision said it was the only way salmon could be conserved. Opponents insist it is a denial of every English-speaking right from the time of Magna Charta and that the alleged conservation of salmon is in the interest of the cannery trust.

President Furuseth of the International Seamen's union said it was as reasonable to set the fox to guard the geese as to set the cannery men to guard the salmon. The unionist urged that all Alaskan waters within the three mile limit be set aside as a fish preserve with regulations that would apply to all fishers.

Members of the house committee exhibit a lively sentiment for fish conservation and have instructed a subcommittee to prepare a bill to be brought before the full committee.

PAYING POLL TAX IS NOT HIGH IDEAL

Fairhope, Ala., Feb. 16.—Governor Brandon's appeal that citizens pay their state poll tax "in the name of the highest ideals of democracy" fails to impress Editor Gaston of the Fairhope Courier. The newspaper man declines to concede that there is any "high ideal of democracy" associated with this tax.

"The payment of a poll tax as a condition of voting," says the editor, "was for the purpose of shutting the colored man from the ballot, and it is probably true that it was in the back of the heads of many who put it in the constitution to also disfranchise a large part of the working class whites, though they kept this to themselves.

"It has helped to make Alabama one of the states with the lowest number of voters in proportion to population, which denotes anything but a 'high ideal of democracy.'"

CHEATED IN WEIGHT; COAL MINERS STRIKE

Murphysboro, Ill., Feb. 16.—More than 700 miners employed by the Western coal and mining company suspended work because they were cheated by a checkweighman employed by the company.

The workers asked that the man be discharged, and when this was refused they struck.

PROBE MINIMUM WAGE

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 16.—The minimum wage commission, created by the last state general assembly to make a study of minimum wage legislation, is holding public hearings.

TOO MUCH CHILD LABOR

Madison, Wis., Feb. 16.—Employers are warned by the state industrial commission that prosecution will follow their continued violation of the child labor laws. The business men are employing children without a permit and are subject to a trebled penalty for compensation.

NO ALIEN LABORERS NEEDED IN AMERICA

Washington, Feb. 16.—A report on the pending immigration bill was filed in the house by Representative Johnson, chairman of the committee. It was signed by 14 members. Because the present law expires June 30 next the report urges the "immediate and urgent need for enactment of immigration legislation." It declares that the nation's prosperity does not depend upon more immigrants.

"The committee is advised," the report continues, "that the number of aliens desiring to enter the United States is very large. It is reasonable to assume that, despite unfavorable exchange rates, high steamship tariffs, and other untoward factors, an immigration of between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000 would have entered the United States during each of the last two years if the 3 per cent law had not barred the way.

"If the 3 per cent law is permitted to expire, and if no other legislation is enacted, the movement to our shores on the largest scale of our peoples in the history of the world may be expected to begin July 1, 1924. The existing statute, as of June 30, fiscal 1917, will be powerless to stay the tide.

"The prosperity of the United States does not depend upon additional unskilled alien laborers coming to this country. Industry and activity have survived the slackened immigration caused by the European war and the trade law (the two covering a stretch of almost 10 years), and the United States has had one spell of great unemployment in that period. Our gain in population through natural sources is large—10,000,000, in the decade of the 1920's. Some thought must be given to the welfare of the coming generations."

The report declares that the committee took upon the suspension of all general immigration as a future possibility.

The majority considered such action "undesirable at this time," although a minority favored it.

NO "SECESH" IDEAS HELD IN PORTO RICO

Washington, Feb. 16.—"There is no movement in Porto Rico for secession, independence or separation from the United States," said Senator Santiago Iglesias, member of the Porto Rican legislature and president of the Porto Rican federation of labor, affiliated with the A. F. of L., who, together with Rafael Alonson, secretary of the Porto Rican federation of labor, are spending a short vacation that is now in Washington in the interest of wider self government for their island home.

"The idea of independence or separation from the American Union, which certain newspapers attribute to the people of Porto Rico, is a misrepresentation," said Senator Iglesias.

"The organized workers of Porto Rico, as well as the three political parties of the island, do not want separation from us. We are citizens, and we aspire to be regarded as such. We ask that congress evolve some measures to put the people of Porto Rico to the standard of life and citizenship that prevails in the United States. Such a condition to the president and to congress just as it was approved by the last convention of the A. F. of L."

JUDICIARY ELECTION ATTRACTS UNIONISTS

Chicago, Feb. 16.—The election of five of the nine members of the state supreme court takes place next June and organized labor is already discussing the importance of this event. The term of office is nine years. This election will determine the character of the men who will pass on legislation, the trend in the courts on government ownership of public utilities, the labor injunction and other issues will come before this court.

OPPOSE NIGHT WORK

Oakland, Cal., Feb. 16.—Organized bakers are unanimous in their opposition to night baking, according to wholesale bakers. The workers say the plan has been rejected in this country and in Europe. With night baking there would be less vigilance by the health bureaus and by the department of weights and measures, the workers point out.

DEATHS IN MINES

Washington, Feb. 16.—There were 2,463 men killed in coal mines last year, according to reports received by the bureau of mines. Coal produced in this period totaled 541,476,000 tons, or a fatality rate of 3.32 per million tons, as compared with 4.15 for 1922.

This is a reduction of 8 per cent in the fatal-accident rate per million tons of coal produced in 1923, and is followed to the saving of 216 lives, the bureau points out.

NON-UNION WAGES CUT WHILE BABIES HUNGER

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 16.—McDowell county miners, who have been told they are "free and independent," have been handed a 10 per cent wage reduction. That county is a bulwark of anti-unionism, and is filled with strikebreakers, gun men and thugs.

The coal mined by these workers costs the consumers as much as coal mined by organized miners. The latter are now fighting to improve their conditions, though handicapped by McDowell county, Logan county and other anti-union fields.

This anti-union policy has brought starvation to thousands of West Virginia families. Recently the Cincinnati Post investigated conditions along Cabin Creek, the Big and Little Coal rivers and other sections. The correspondent stated that men, women and children are not fed, are improperly housed and have not sufficient clothing to protect them from wintry blasts. The reason for these conditions, the correspondent said, is the anti-union attitude of absentee coal owners who have fastened serfdom on their employes.

For years organized labor has made this point, and has appealed to the public for aid in their unequal contest.

OUT-OF-WORK RELIEF URGED BY UNIONISTS

London, England, Feb. 16.—A great national campaign on behalf of unemployment relief is to be launched jointly by the bona fide trade union movement, represented by the British Trades Union Congress, and the unemployed workers' committee.

Six points are presented, which the promoters declare must be immediately attained by united action. These points are:

First—Work or effective maintenance for all unemployed and increased government assistance, to be provided through the trade unions, all relief being completely dissociated from the poor law administration.

Second—Immediate development of government schemes for employment in the development of their own trades at trade union wages.

Third—Establishment of state workshops for supplying necessary service or commodities to affect the requirements of the governmental departments.

Fourth—Reduction in the hours of labor sufficiently to absorb the unemployed workers, the normal working day or week to be regulated by the requirements of industry.

Fifth—The development of occupational training centers for unemployed workers, with effective maintenance.

Sixth—Immediate steps to provide housing accommodation at rents within the means of the wage earners.

WORKERS' PENSION LEADS

New York, Feb. 16.—The steel trust announces that it has paid $1,448,112 in pensions to "more than 4,000 employes" during the past year.

If the number were exactly 4,000, this would mean an average pension of $362 for the year, or $6.96 per week. If the pensioners total more than 4,000—which is quite probable—the average is less.

The public press makes friendly comment on this paternalism of the steel trust, which is committed to the anti-union shop.

As against this pension, stands the pension of $9 a week which the International Typographical union pays to every member.

PLEADS TO SAVE FORESTS

Washington, Feb. 16.—The conservation of forests is one of the nation's most important problems, Secretary of Agriculture Wallace told a meeting of leaders in the pulp and paper industry here.

"In our country we have been easily deceived by the vast visible supplies of wood and by the popular belief that anyone anywhere we can make up any deficit by imports," said the cabinet official. "We have inherited a most costly abuse of our forests."

METAL POLISHERS GAIN

New York, Feb. 16.—Metal polishers employed in the French range shops have won a new contract, with a $9 wage rate and a 44-hour week. These shops have been open shop for more than 20 years.

STENOGRAPHERS UNITE

Denver, Feb. 16.—The Stenographers and Bookkeepers' union has started an organizing campaign.

Fall was called to testify, but he refused to answer questions. He said it might incriminate him.

On January 31 the senate unanimously called for the annulment of the oil leases on the ground that they "were executed under circumstances indicating fraud and corruption."

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The Denby defenders would have the entire matter shifted to the courts. Opponents of this plan say public interest would be lost in dry legal proceedings.

Around the above points revolve a sordid tale of corruption in high places and debauchery of public office by big business.

DAUGHERTY PLEADS HE IS BEING ABUSED

Washington, Feb. 16.—In a letter to Congressman Graham, which was clearly written for publicity purposes, Attorney General Daugherty pleads that he is being abused.

The attorney general says he is subjected to attacks "on the part of innocent but used, and ignorant but disposed persons and agencies." He insists that he is not tainted with Teapot Dome, but his inaction when the control of Teapot Dome was transferred to the interior department makes an interesting comparison with his marked activity against railroad shop men.

The law plainly states that oil fields reserved for navy use shall be under control of the navy department. Ignoring this statute, and with the most secrecy, Secretary Denby of the navy department agreed with Secretary Fall of the interior department that the oil lands be turned over to the interior department. It is publicly charged that the secrecy and the violation of law was because navy officers would not consent to the navy department's giving the oil fields to private exploiters.

This made it necessary to have the oil fields removed from the jurisdiction of the sea fighters.

Daugherty knew of this violation of law. He made no protest. This bombastic figure, who blatantly announced he would use every governmental force to crush every idea in defense of the anti-union shop made no move to check a clear violation of law.

The matter is to be kept secret as was crippled by this gift to exploiters, but never a suggestion of an injunction to stay this violation of public act came from the attorney general. But he did ask for an injunction against the shop men on the eve of their strike.

Daugherty's silence when big business is involved and his activity against labor leaders, makes a new record in public life.

COAL OWNERS CHECKED IN THEIR STRIKE PLAN

Washington, Feb. 16.—The administration has knocked the prop from under those coal owners who want a miners' strike and who exercise their influence from the Jacksonville meeting of coal owners and mine workers on April 1 that it is a "conspiracy to fix prices."

These mine owners now face this statement by Secretary of Commerce Hoover:

"After conference with the president I wish to state that the administration is desirous that the representatives of bituminous coal operators and the mine workers in the central competitive field should attend at the proposed conference at Jacksonville, on February 25. It is my understanding of the administration that this conference is solely for the purpose of settling the impact covering wages and conditions of labor. This is intended to confirm my recommendation to certain coal operators' association on January 26 and to finally quiet rumors as to the administration's attitude that have been current during the past few days."

FARM TOOLS FIRMS USE TRUST METHODS

Washington, Feb. 16.—A complaint against leading agricultural machinery makers and implement dealers for maintaining a conspiracy for fixing of machine prices and for farmers' cooperative associations has been issued by the federal trade commission. The firms include the harvester trust, Moline plow company and Deere & Co.

The associations "maintained a system of espionage," the complaint asserted, over the entire industry to cut off the supply of implements and repair parts to cooperative associations but to "irregular" dealers who would not maintain the price and profit levels of the organized manufacturers.

HIGH BALDWIN PROFITS

Philadelphia, Feb. 16.—The annual report of the Baldwin locomotive company promises to surpass the most rosy estimate. Net profits, it is stated, will exceed $10,500,000, a new high record. This is declared to be conservative.

NO LABOR WANTED

Berkeley, Cal., Feb. 16.—Building craftsmen in this city appealed to workers elsewhere not to believe statements that there is a labor scarcity in this city. Last September a firm destroyed 900 homes, which have since been rebuilt. Anti-union employers are attempting to capitalize this incident by flooding Berkeley with penniless workers.

BLACKSMITHS ORGANIZE

Chicago, Feb. 16.—Blacksmiths employed in the Chicago railroad shops have organized a local union.